

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the August 26, 2004 Office
5 Action.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 4 and 12-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 8, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended to include limitations recited in claims that issued in U.S
10 Patent number 6,683,980 from application serial number 09/628,796, which was filed concurrently with and is related to the current application.

Rejections to the Claims

35 U.S.C. 102(e)

15 Claims 8-10, 12, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,021,224 issued to Castelli et al. (herein referred to as "Castelli").

Claim 8 has been amended, rendering the rejection of claims 8-10 moot.

Claim 12 has been cancelled, rendering the rejection of claim 12 moot.

20 Claims 18 and 19 have been amended, rendering the rejection of claims 18-19 moot.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castelli in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,430,354 issued to Watanabe (herein referred to as "Watanabe").

5 Claims 1 and 2 have been amended and claim 4 has been cancelled, rendering the rejection of claims 1-7 moot.

 Independent claim 8, from which claim 11 depends has been amended, rendering the rejection of claim 11 moot.

 Claims 13-15 have been cancelled and claim 16 has been amended,
10 rendering the rejection of claims 13-17 moot.

Conclusion

Claims 4 and 12-15 have been cancelled and claims 1, 2, 8, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended to include limitations recited in previously allowed claims in a related application. Accordingly, pending claims 3, 5-11, and 16-19 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned agent to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
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